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Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the statement of the President of the Security Council of 31 October 2001 (S/PRST/2001/30), in which the Council requested me to submit quarterly reports on the situation in Somalia. It covers developments since my last report of 16 April 2009 (S/2009/210) and focuses, in particular, on political developments and the recent fighting in Mogadishu between forces of the Transitional Federal Government and insurgent groups. The report also includes a review of the security situation in Somalia, the activities undertaken to assist the Transitional Federal Government in developing its transitional security institutions, the role of AMISOM in stabilizing security, the humanitarian and human rights situation and the operational activities of the United Nations agencies and programmes in Somalia.

II. Main developments in Somalia

A. Political developments

2. President Sheikh Sharif Sheik Ahmed and the unity government continued to engage with opposition groups still outside the Djibouti reconciliation process. President Ahmed has repeatedly stated that the door is open for opposition groups that wish to join the national reconciliation process based on the Djibouti agreement. The Government has, in this regard, continuously engaged with armed opposition groups, including the Hizbul Islam, and has also held consultations with influential clan leaders and elders and islamic clerics in efforts to broaden domestic support for the stabilization of the country. Through the mediation role of the Islamic Clerics Council, the Hawiye Cultural and Unity Council and other influential clerics and clan leaders, the Government has reached out to insurgent groups and has succeeded in encouraging some of them to join the peace process. However, these engagements have proved to be challenging owing to the inflexibility on the part of hardline insurgents. In spite of these setbacks, the Government has continuously reiterated its readiness to broaden its base by including those opposition groups that renounce violence.

3. In the midst of a resurgence of fighting between Government forces and armed opposition elements, the Transitional Federal Government signed a declaration with

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Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a on 21 June by which they agreed to cooperate in the political, security, humanitarian and development areas, in the spirit of the Djibouti agreement. A former official of the Hizbul Islam insurgent group, Sheikh Yusuf Mohamed Siad Inda'ade, was earlier included in the unity Government as Minister of State for Defence.

4. The Somalia Cabinet and Parliament continued to hold sessions in Mogadishu despite increasing attacks on the Government. On 18 April, Parliament, in an effort to meet some of the demands of opposition groups, unanimously voted to endorse the implementation of sharia law in the country. A cross-section of Somali society, including clan elders and scholars, welcomed the endorsement as a positive step and called upon the opposition groups to stop the fighting. Since early May, there have been intermittent attacks on Government forces, as well as targeted killings by insurgent groups, which culminated in the assassination on 18 June of Omar Hashi Aden, Somalia's Minister of National Security. On 22 June, the Transitional Federal Government declared a state of emergency following a Cabinet meeting that concluded that the increased attacks posed a serious threat to the country.

5. President Ahmed visited a number of countries in Africa and Europe. These included Belgium, Turkey, Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Djibouti and the Sudan, where among other things he discussed the situation in Somalia and appealed for support to enable his Government to resolve the security situation in the country. President Ahmed also attended the thirteenth African Union Summit, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 1 to 3 July, where he called for the urgent deployment of additional troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the strengthening of its mandate. During the Summit, the African Union expressed full support for the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia. The Summit endorsed the decisions taken earlier by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union Peace and Security Council calling upon the Security Council to impose sanctions on Eritrea for aiding the insurgents. The African Union also called upon the United Nations to impose a sea blockade and a no-fly zone to stop the flow of weapons and other supplies to the insurgent groups. After the Summit the President visited Ethiopia and Uganda to solicit support for the Transitional Federal Government.

6. In solidarity with the Government, officials of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) continued to make visits to Somalia. On 25 May, my Special Representative, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, paid a visit to Mogadishu during which he held private discussions with President Ahmed at the presidential palace and attended a meeting of the Council of Ministers in Mogadishu. The Deputy Special Representative has also travelled to Mogadishu for consultations with senior officials of the Transitional Federal Government. His delegation briefed the Somali Cabinet on the status of pledges made at the international donors' conference in Brussels. They exchanged views on the way forward in the peace process, including the establishment of a joint security mechanism.

B. Security situation

7. The situation remains fluid. Insurgents have conducted repeated attacks on Villa Somalia and other strategic positions, such as the K4 junction and the seaport. The Transitional Federal Government, supported by AMISOM, currently remains in

control of the strategic southern districts of Mogadishu as well as the airport and seaport. On 7 May, a group of insurgents launched an attack on the presidential palace. Outnumbered Government forces succeeded in repelling the attack. A few days later, Government forces launched their first counter-attack in several months, in which they dislodged the insurgents from a number of strategic locations in Mogadishu. The insurgents launched yet another attack on 19 June, which the Government forces again successfully repelled.

8. At its thirty-third extraordinary session, held on 20 May, the IGAD Council of Ministers called upon the Security Council to impose a no-fly zone, except for humanitarian purposes authorized by the Government, on the airports of Kismayo, Baidoa, KM50, Balidoogle, Waajid and Hudur, all airports in Gedo region, Isaley and Johar. The Council of Ministers also "condemned in the strongest terms possible all the individuals, organizations and countries, in particular the Government of Eritrea and its financiers who continued to instigate, recruit, train, fund and supply the criminal elements in and or to Somalia".

9. At its 190th meeting, held on 22 May, the African Union Peace and Security Council expressed its strong support for the communiqué issued by the IGAD Council of Ministers and requested the Security Council, in line with relevant provisions of the IGAD communiqué, "to take immediate measures to impose a no-fly zone and blockade of sea ports, to prevent the entry of foreign elements into Somalia, as well as flights and shipments carrying weapons and ammunitions to armed groups inside Somalia which are carrying out attacks against the Transitional Federal Government, the civilian population and AMISOM". It also requested the Security Council "to impose sanctions against all those foreign actors, both within and outside the region, especially Eritrea, providing support to the armed groups engaged in destabilization activities in Somalia, attacks against the Transitional Federal Government, the civilian population and AMISOM, as well as against all the Somali individuals and entities working towards undermining the peace and reconciliation efforts and regional stability".

10. Insurgent groups, such as Al-Shabaab, are alleged to be extorting money from private companies and recruiting young people to join the fight against the Government in Mogadishu, including child soldiers. Al-Shabaab has confirmed the presence of foreign fighters within its ranks and has stated openly that it is working with Al-Qaida in Mogadishu to remove the Government of Somalia. The foreign fighters, many of whom reportedly originate from Pakistan and Afghanistan, appear to be well trained and battle-tested. They have been observed wearing hoods, directing offensive operations against Government forces in Mogadishu and neighbouring regions.

11. Al-Shabaab has intensified its strategy to coerce and intimidate the Somali population, as reflected in the carefully selected "high gain" assassinations and arrests of clan elders, several of whom have been murdered. On 19 June, Omar Hashi Aden, the Minister of National Security, was killed in a large-scale suicide car bomb in Beletwyne. Over 30 other people were killed in the attack, which was strongly condemned by the international community and a broad cross-section of Somali society.

12. The countries neighbouring Somalia, as well as the broader international community, are considering how to further assist the Transitional Federal Government following its call for military and other assistance. The coming days

and weeks will be critical. The Government clearly needs urgent military support in areas of personnel, arms and logistics to sustain its success in warding off insurgent attacks and defending key installations. I, therefore, appeal to the entire international community to render urgent support to the Government of Somalia, without which it may not be able to establish itself.

III. African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)

13. AMISOM has played an important role in stabilizing the security situation in Mogadishu in support of the Djibouti peace process. In accordance with the Mission's mandate to protect the Transitional Federal Institutions, support the political dialogue and national reconciliation, and facilitate humanitarian assistance, AMISOM troops are deployed in strategic locations in Mogadishu, including the presidential palace (Villa Somalia) and the Mogadishu airport and seaport. The presence of the peacekeepers has been vital in supporting the implementation of the peace agreement and enabling the Transitional Federal Government to function in Mogadishu. AMISOM is also providing support, including technical expertise and a financial contribution, for the process of re-establishing the Somali security forces.

14. As of 30 June, the troop strength of AMISOM in Mogadishu stood at 4,300 troops, or 54 per cent of the authorized strength of 8,000, comprising three battalions from Uganda and two battalions from Burundi. AMISOM is still four battalions short of its mandated strength of nine infantry battalions, plus maritime and air components. The surge of fighting in Mogadishu since early May has only occasionally targeted AMISOM, which continues to hold the key locations listed in my previous reports. AMISOM has called for the expeditious deployment of the support package in order to increase its capacity to effectively implement its mandate.

15. Steps are under way for the deployment of a third Burundian battalion, as well as for the commencement of the relocation of the AMISOM civilian mission leadership from Nairobi to Mogadishu. There is, however, an urgent need for additional troops for AMISOM so as to reach its authorized strength, especially in the face of continued attacks on the Government by the insurgents. The African Union Commission has consistently urged member States of the African Union and its partners to expedite the deployment of the additional troops. In the communiqué of its 194th meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 16 June 2009, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union welcomed the pledges by Sierra Leone and Malawi to contribute one battalion each to AMISOM and urged African Union member States and partners to provide the required logistical support for the early deployment of those battalions. Furthermore, the Peace and Security Council urged the African Union member States that had already pledged troops to AMISOM to urgently deploy them.

16. Meanwhile, AMISOM has initiated the deployment of its police component with the arrival of its Police Commissioner in Mogadishu on 18 June. The police component also includes a leadership team of six officers. A total of 89 police personnel, including trainers, advisors and mentors, have been recruited (out of the mandated 270) and will be deployed to Mogadishu to commence the crucial task of training the 10,000 members of the all-inclusive Somalia Police Force in line with the Djibouti agreement. The police training task force led jointly by the United

Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and AMISOM, which reports to the UNPOS-led security sector technical working group, is developing a UNDP-AMISOM programme of training, mentoring and advice for the Somali police.

IV. Activities of the United Nations and the international community

A. Resource mobilization

17. The United Nations and the wider international community organized a number of activities in support of Somalia. On 22 and 23 April, the United Nations and its partners successfully convened, in Brussels, an international conference in support of Somalia's security institutions and AMISOM. Donors pledged an amount in excess of $213 million, in addition to pledges that were made in kind.

18. As at 24 June, confirmed pledges stood at $182.8 million, including $7.4 million for the newly established United Nations Trust Fund for the Somali Security Forces and $30.6 million for the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM. In addition, the Government of Somalia is reported to have received $11.5 million, and the African Union about $6.7 million. Nearly $112.2 million is earmarked for disbursement through project implementation units that will shortly be established in Addis Ababa and Nairobi. Approximately $3 million is expected to be disbursed for recovery and development through UNDP-Somalia.

19. The International Contact Group on Somalia held its 15th meeting in Rome on 9 and 10 June. At the meeting, members of the Contact Group observed that Somalia was at a very delicate period which offered great possibilities and cautious optimism, despite recent acts of violence. The Contact Group reiterated its support for the Government of Somalia and welcomed the efforts of President Ahmed to build a government of national unity, including all those who reject violence and believe in national reconciliation. Meanwhile, on 29 June, the Government of Somalia, with the support of bilateral and multilateral organizations, signed an agreement with Pricewaterhouse Coopers. According to the agreement, Pricewaterhouse will act as the Government's fiduciary management agent. This is a reflection of the Government's commitment to enhancing transparency and accountability in its management of public finances.

B. Institutional development

20. The United Nations continued to provide support to Somalia for institutional development and capacity-building under the Somali Institutional Development Project that was launched in January 2009. The support has mainly focused on the capacity development of civil servants and the provision of technical assistance in policy and law-making processes, budget-making and public finance management, human resource development and infrastructure support. As part of this programme, the United Nations trained over 120 civil servants in "Puntland" and almost 500 civil servants in "Somaliland" and established systems, policies and frameworks mandated to develop, review and maintain basic government processes in public financial management and civil service reform, among other areas.

21. As part of an effort to build the capacity of government personnel, UNPOS organized an induction course for senior staff of key ministries. The course was held at the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya in Nairobi, from 27 to 30 April. Furthermore, from 2 to 5 June, in Nairobi, UNDP organized a strategic action planning support induction workshop for senior officials of the Ministry of Constitution and Federal Affairs. The course clarified the Ministry's mandate in the constitution-making process, explored the way forward and reached an understanding on the assistance to be rendered by a consortium of international partners led by UNDP. This consortium supports constitution-building under the political guidance of my Special Representative.

C. Security sector institutions

22. In its resolution 1872 (2009), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to assist the Transitional Federal Government in developing the transitional security institutions and a national security strategy, including plans for combating illegal arms trafficking, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and justice and corrections capacities. The Council called upon the Government to develop a legal and policy framework for the operation of its security forces, including governance, vetting and oversight mechanisms, ensuring respect for the rule of law and the protection of human rights. Progress on these tasks has been precluded by the prevailing security situation in the country, in Mogadishu in particular.

23. UNPOS, in collaboration with the United Nations country team and the donor community, and with the support of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, continued to work with the Government towards revitalizing the Joint Security Committee that will remain a key interface between the Government of Somalia and the international community on all security-related issues.

24. UNPOS is also working with the donor community to develop plans for an urgent joint needs assessment, together with technical experts from the United Nations and the African Union. This is intended to encourage a coordinated approach among donors who have expressed the intention to provide support and training to the nascent National Security Force, including the police, to ensure that such support focuses on priority needs. The initial assessment is planned to commence in the next few months.

25. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1872 (2009), the United Nations continues to support the Transitional Federal Government in developing a national security strategy, including the preparation of a proposal to establish a consultative dialogue process with Somalis and interested international actors. This Government-led and UNPOS-facilitated process will draw on the expertise and knowledge of the entire United Nations family. It will culminate in the production of a strategy that will identify the goals and requirements of Somalia's security, justice and corrections sectors during the transition period and provide guidance to the assistance programmes of international partners.

26. Following pledges made at the Brussels donor conference to support the recruitment, training and payment of stipends for the 10,000 Somali police officers in south-central Somalia by June 2010, UNDP started making preparations to refurbish and resupply two training facilities in Mogadishu. However, the delivery

of equipment has been postponed owing to the ongoing fighting. Training for new police officers from south-central Somalia started on 13 July at the Armo Police Training Academy in "Puntland". The training is being conducted by the 80 Somali police trainers who graduated from the joint UNDP/Ugandan Police Force programme.

27. The registration of the Somali National Security Force has started. Members of the Somalia Police Force trained by UNDP have received stipends corresponding to the first six months of 2008. The prevailing security situation has made it difficult for further payments to be made to all those trained in the past. Alternative means of payment are being explored.

28. Despite the difficult security environment, the Police Advisory Committee continued to operate in Mogadishu, where it is monitoring the situation of detainees. The Committee is one of the civilian oversight structures that was established and assigned to all 18 Mogadishu police districts, following a 2008 Amnesty International report that documented gross violations of human rights allegedly committed by the Government forces. The Committee's membership includes parliamentarians, clan elders, journalists, representatives of the business community and the Association of Women. Its fundamental role is to ensure that the police officers respect the rule of law and human rights law. In the ongoing violence, the head of police in Mogadishu, who was a senior member of the Committee, was killed.

D. Activities of the United Nations in support of the African Union mission

29. In line with Security Council resolutions 1863 (2009) and 1872 (2009), the United Nations continued to provide planning expertise to the African Union in support of the deployment and operations of AMISOM. During the reporting period, United Nations planners assisted the African Union in its efforts to generate additional military contingents for AMISOM, including by providing briefings and producing relevant planning documents for potential troop-contributing countries and African Union partners. Following a request from the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, United Nations planners also helped to review the rules of engagement of AMISOM with a view to enabling it to take more robust action within its existing mandate. United Nations planners in Addis Ababa also worked to develop deployment and logistical requirements planning for the AMISOM police component, in order to expedite its relocation to Mogadishu.

30. In addition to building the capacity of the AMISOM mission analysis cell, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support Situation Centre facilitated a familiarization and training visit for AMISOM personnel to the Joint Mission Analysis Cell at the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and provided sample planning, policy and reporting documents to support the development of the AMISOM mission analysis centre. The Situation Centre also provided AMISOM with informal guidance on substantive and administrative issues on a daily basis.

31. In an effort to counter negative media propaganda waged by the insurgency, United Nations planners helped the African Union to finalize its media strategy, launch a monthly newsletter and develop designs for an expanded website. These

tools are intended to highlight AMISOM activities in Mogadishu and raise awareness of its mandate among potential troop-contributing countries, donors and the Somali diaspora. United Nations planners also continued to assist in the planning for the AMISOM FM radio station due to be launched as part of the logistics support package.

32. The Secretariat continued to plan for a future United Nations peacekeeping operation to follow on from AMISOM, subject to a further decision of the Security Council. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations refined and updated operational planning for the military, police and civilian components of a potential United Nations peacekeeping operation, including a detailed contingency plan for its possible maritime component. Subject to the security situation in Mogadishu, the Department plans to visit Mogadishu in the near future to test planning assumptions against local conditions and develop updated advice ahead of the September 2009 report requested by the Security Council in resolution 1872 (2009).

33. With the approval by the General Assembly in April 2009 of $71.6 million for United Nations logistics support to AMISOM, the Department of Field Support has focused its efforts, through the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA), on deploying rapidly specialized support equipment and material primarily from the strategic reserve stocks in the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) at Brindisi, Italy; developing and the training of AMISOM; providing critical life support through supplemental rations and ration reserves; and enhancing existing commercial medical evacuation capabilities to improve the responsiveness and mobility of AMISOM.

34. A significant consignment worth $15 million has been released from the strategic deployment stocks in UNLB and arrived in Mombasa, Kenya on 14 July. The shipment includes key infrastructure items, namely generators, refrigeration units, catering equipment, prefabricated buildings and sanitation systems in addition to medical equipment and armoured vehicles. These essential assets will be used by AMISOM to upgrade its infrastructures and improve its mobility and reserve capacity in Mogadishu and by UNSOA to establish its support base in Mombasa.

35. Key equipment from the strategic deployment stocks pre-positioned in Entebbe in April 2009, including one airfield firefighting truck, information and communications equipment and related infrastructure, is being used to provide critical training to AMISOM and will be deployed alongside trained personnel to Mogadishu. The remaining equipment, including critical field defence stores, a mobile airfield lighting system, medical and pharmaceutical supplies and expendables, has been deployed onward to Mogadishu.

36. A training package has been developed on critical United Nations equipment. To date, 6,000 hours of training have been provided for approximately 100 AMISOM troops over a period of two months. This initial training focused on Strategic Communications, firefighting, medical first aid and trauma care, erection of prefabricated units, property management and movement control principles. A refresher training is to be conducted in July until troops are deployed into theatre. Additional firefighting training has been requested by AMISOM. The training will be conducted in Entebbe through the end of August 2009.

37. In addition to the deployment of critical equipment and supplies, the Department of Field Support is putting in place life support and logistics

arrangements. The contract for delivery of rations to AMISOM has been secured and is expected to be operational in August. In the interim, weekly delivery of combat rations packs to supplement fresh food supplies has commenced. This transitional measure serves to provide tactical flexibility to the troops operating under Phase V security conditions, where the need to have rations in close proximity is essential.

38. Medical evacuation capacity remains a critical component of support especially in light of the recent volatility of security in Mogadishu. Short-term arrangements for commercial medical evacuation capacity have been enhanced. The Department of Field Support is working closely with the Department of Safety and Security to assess the feasibility of supply flights to AMISOM.

39. Additionally, one of the priority components of the support package urgently sought by AMISOM is the construction of a force headquarters and level-II hospital in Mogadishu, allowing AMISOM to expand from a military mission to an integrated civilian, police and military one. This facility is critical if AMISOM is to accomplish its mandate. UNSOA is planning an approach which addresses the immediate and longer-term operational requirements. The requirements for the construction of a level-II hospital and force headquarters have been released to vendors and a contract award is expected in August.

40. The Department of Field Support has commenced the procurement process to transition from the existing interim arrangements to long-term United Nations contracts to be phased in from 1 August. The General Assembly recently approved $139 million for the start of the new budget year. This level of funding effectively provides for logistics support operations to continue for only some four months under existing plans. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to present a full-year budget for the 2009/10 budget by October 2009. It will be submitted shortly.

41. A memorandum of understanding has been presented to the African Union for final consideration. The memorandum of understanding defines the support services to be provided by the United Nations and is designed to establish the necessary internal controls to ensure that the provision of equipment and services by the United Nations is done in a transparent manner, consistent with the relevant Security Council resolutions. The United Nations welcomes the confirmation by the Government of Kenya for the United Nations logistics support base for AMISOM to be established in Mombasa.

42. Preparations are under way to build up essential security infrastructure for the establishment of a small semi-permanent presence in Mogadishu, based on several onsite assessments conducted by UNSOA and the Department of Safety and Security. In peacekeeping operations, the presence of international staff in the area of operation is a critical for the management and delivery of support. As and when security conditions permit, UNSOA will aim to establish a small footprint in Mogadishu that could be used by UNPOS and the United Nations country team. Until that time, interim oversight mechanisms will continue using United Nations, African Union and contracted personnel, to achieve the core objectives.

V. Humanitarian situation

43. The humanitarian situation in Somalia has seriously deteriorated as a consequence of the intensified fighting in Mogadishu since 7 May, worsening drought countrywide and growing insecurity in most parts of south-central Somalia.

44. The recent spate of fighting has left a trail of destruction, civilian casualties and renewed mass displacement. More than 250 civilians were killed and 900 others wounded, according to local hospital sources. The Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that an estimated 204,000 people who had recently returned to their homes in Mogadishu were again displaced to safer areas within Mogadishu or to settlements for internally displaced persons in the city's outskirts. Some have fled to the Afgooye corridor, while others journeyed to more distant locations. Despite the recent fighting in and around Mogadishu, humanitarian agencies were largely able to continue humanitarian operations, but with difficulty. On 20 June, the World Food Programme (WFP) was forced to temporarily suspend the distribution of cooked meals to the most vulnerable people in Mogadishu, owing to insecurity. In the course of the next six months, WFP will need $136 million to feed more than 3 million people throughout Somalia.

45. In May, 458,400 internally displaced persons were provided with food assistance in the Afgooye corridor, where a third of the newly displaced are located. Vulnerable populations, including malnourished children, received food assistance under various programmes. More than 250,000 internally displaced persons and their host communities benefited from clean piped and trucked water, improved sanitation conditions and hygiene promotion. In addition, mitigation efforts to prevent cholera outbreaks continued, benefiting over 163,000 people. Shelter and other non-food items were distributed to more than 50,000 people, while about 13,000 hygiene kits and 1,100 clean delivery kits were distributed to pregnant women.

46. Violence against humanitarian agencies and staff continued throughout the reporting period. On 17 May, Al-Shabaab forces took control of Jowhar town and looted the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) compound, deliberately destroying humanitarian supplies, assets and equipment. The vaccine storage equipment was damaged, destroying thousands of doses of measles, polio and other vaccines intended for Somali children and women. Highly valuable nutritional supplies for the prevention of malnutrition, for 40,000 children under three years of age, were also looted. As of 7 July, the compound remained occupied by militiamen and inaccessible to UNICEF staff. The control of Jowhar by Al-Shabaab has had country-wide humanitarian implications, since Jowhar is the main hub for the provision of services and supplies to south-central Somalia. The ability of UNICEF to respond to critical needs and support a large network of non-governmental and community-based organizations was severely affected. More than 100 non-governmental and community-based organizations rely on UNICEF for supplies and technical assistance in the areas of health, nutrition, education and protection.

47. Direct attacks against humanitarian workers have continued, with six humanitarian workers killed during the first five months of 2009 and seven kidnapped. Sixteen humanitarian workers abducted in 2008 remain in captivity. In June 2009, Médecins Sans Frontières-Belgium announced that it would pull out of Bakool region. This is a serious setback for the region, since it was the last

remaining non-governmental organization in the area following the forced suspension of activities by the International Medical Corps (IMC) in October 2008.

48. The food security assessment reports for April-June 2009 indicate that the overall food security situation in many parts of Somalia will remain precarious over the coming six months. According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, poor rainfall in combination with several successive seasons of below normal rainfall have resulted in poor pasture. This led to decreased livestock productivity and value in central and northern Somalia. The drought in northern Somalia is affecting the livelihoods of more than 700,000 pastoralists and a significant number of urban households whose income and food sources are linked to livestock marketing and trade. In total, at least 3.2 million people, 43 per cent of the country's population, will continue to require humanitarian assistance and livelihood support through September 2009.

49. UNHCR reported that the number of migrants and asylum-seekers attempting the dangerous voyage across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen increased by 30 per cent in the first quarter of 2009 compared to the same period in 2008. As of 14 June, nearly 28,000 people, mainly Somalis and Ethiopians, had arrived at the Yemen coast. In response, UNHCR and its partners have stepped up their efforts to deter people from boarding smugglers' boats at the main departure point in Bossaso, "Puntland".

50. While the humanitarian needs of Somalia remain high, funding received in response to the consolidated appeal, at the end of June 2009, covered only 44 per cent of the $984 million requested. Low funding of the water and sanitation and health sectors is of particular concern, as they are interlinked and complementary. It is important for the international community to make urgent contributions to enable the humanitarian community to increase access to clean water and deliver health services.

VI. Human rights and protection of civilians

51. There has been a marked deterioration in the human rights situation in Mogadishu as a result of the recent spate in fighting. Violations of international humanitarian law which have been reported in this context may in some instances amount to war crimes. Testimony gathered from refugees and displaced persons alleges that insurgents may have used civilians as human shields by taking the conflict into areas populated or frequented by civilians. Repeated, inaccurate and indiscriminate exchanges of mortar fire resulted in numerous civilian deaths and injuries. Tens of thousands of people were forced to flee Mogadishu. Death threats and intimidation were also frequently reported. Journalists covering the conflict have faced particular risks. Since January 2009, six journalists have been killed in Mogadishu, four of whom appear to be victims of targeted assassinations, while the others were killed and several others injured in the crossfire while reporting on the conflict.

52. Some refugees who fled the country stated that they had done so to avoid recruitment of their children by the insurgent groups. UNICEF has documented the extensive recruitment and training of children, some as young as nine years old, with some reportedly deployed to the front lines. Insurgent groups are also reported to be forcing girls into marriage. On 12 June, the Government of Somalia condemned and expressed its profound concerns about the use of child soldiers (less

than 18 years of age). Beyond child recruitment, children have been gravely affected by the situation, with reports of children killed, maimed, separated from families and exposed to sexual and gender-based violence.

53. In parts of south-central Somalia, extreme interpretations of sharia law by the insurgent groups have led to allegations of grave violations of the right to life and physical integrity. Summary executions, including beheadings, floggings, amputations, arbitrary arrests, restrictions on freedom of movement and violations of women's rights have been reported. Observers are concerned by reports of what seem to be limitations on the right to freedom of assembly and expression. Journalists are reported to have effectively exercised self-censorship as a result of targeted assassinations. In "Puntland", the authorities continue to express their commitment to human rights. Nonetheless, concerns were raised about cases in which the death penalty was imposed under circumstances where the judicial process was considered unfair. Limited access to justice, particularly for women, the lack of capacity of the judiciary and, at times, the discriminatory application of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms are some issues of concern.

VII. Piracy

54. Since my report of 16 March 2009 on the subject of Somali piracy (S/2009/146), the International Maritime Bureau has reported an exponential increase in activity by pirates in the Gulf of Aden and the Somali Basin, with 61 incidents reported during the first quarter of 2009, compared to 6 in the same period in 2008. The Bureau reports that from the beginning of 2009 through early June, there were 29 successful hijackings in the region.

55. Military naval operations in the region have played a key role in reducing the number of successful hijackings off the coast of Somalia, highlighting the need for these operations to continue. Notably, in January 2009, one in every six hijackings was successful, this figure falling to one in every 13 for the month of March. This is directly attributable to effective patrolling of the seas, the escorting of groups of vessels registered with the Maritime Security Centre (Horn of Africa) along a transit corridor, and to a lesser degree, incidents of bad weather.

56. However, as a result of the military presence in the region, pirates have employed more daring operational tactics, operating further seawards, towards the Seychelles, and using more sophisticated weaponry. It has also been noted by military naval operations in the region that the attacks in the Somali Basin appear to be highly organized and more systematic.

57. Since my last report on piracy (S/2009/146), military naval coalitions and Member States have continued their efforts to enhance the safety of commercial maritime routes and international navigation in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia. The levels of cooperation and coordination exhibited by all Member States combating piracy in this region, both individually and collectively have increased.

58. On 15 June 2009, the Council of the European Union decided to extend the mandate of Operation Atalanta for one year from its current end date of 13 December 2009. On 12 June 2009, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization decided to extend its counter-piracy operations in this region. Australia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Pakistan have since joined Combined Task

Force 151 (CTF-151) which continues its operations in the region. In addition, the Russian Federation, China, Malaysia, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan have also deployed vessels to the region as part of the international efforts to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia.

59. On 29 May 2009, the United States convened the third meeting of the Contact Group on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia in New York. This meeting considered, inter alia, mechanisms for the apprehension and prosecution of suspected pirates, the establishment of an effective coast guard for Somalia and the region and the creation of an international trust fund to finance anti-piracy activities. It remains critical that in the long term, the issue of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia be resolved through an integrated approach that addresses the conflict, lack of governance and absence of sustainable livelihoods on land in Somalia. In line with this view, the United Nations has proposed the establishment of an additional working group of the Contact Group to examine land-based initiatives to combat piracy.

60. In addition, the United Nations country team, in consultation with UNPOS, is finalizing a framework document that seeks to build on previous successful projects and to scale up its operations to make a substantive difference in standards of living along the coast and in the interior of Somalia in an effort to combat piracy. It is expected that this framework will be ready for submission to donors in July.

61. The United Nations is exploring the prospects for helping Member States to ensure the prosecution of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia. This approach is consistent with relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1851 (2008), which encourages regional capacity-building. To this end, the relevant United Nations offices will be coordinating system-wide efforts to build on the considerable work already undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Maritime Organization to assist regional Member States in conducting prosecutions. This approach should lead to increased participation and the sharing of the burden of prosecutions by States which have been leading the efforts to fight impunity for acts of piracy.

62. As requested by the Security Council, I will report in November 2009 on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1846 (2008) of 2 December 2008 and on the situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery in territorial waters and the high seas off the coast of Somalia.

VIII. Observations

63. I am deeply concerned by attempts to use force and violence to topple the Transitional Federal Government. This has come at a time when the Government is making concrete progress towards fulfilling its transitional agenda, which the population has increasingly welcomed. The attempts by elements opposed to peace and stability to seize power by force from the legally constituted and internationally recognized Government must not be allowed to succeed. Every effort must be made to assist the Government and enable it to exercise its authority countrywide for the sake of the Somali people.

64. I welcome the continued commitment of President Ahmed and his Government to form an inclusive administration in Somalia, as reflected in the agreement

reached with the group Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a and certain elements of Hizbul Islam. I also appeal to the international community not to waver in the face of the recent upsurge in fighting. The presence of fundamentalist foreign fighters in the midst of the opposition groups is unacceptable in that such elements have their own international agenda. I urge IGAD and the African Union to continue working with my Special Representative on encouraging the insurgents and other opposition elements to work towards peace in Somalia.

65. It is important that the international community heed the call made by the African Union member States at their summit meeting held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, from 1 to 3 July to honour the commitments made at the Brussels donor conference and the International Contact Group meeting in Rome to support the Government of Somalia. For the Government to increase its legitimacy and to broaden its base, we must invest in building the capacity of the security institutions and improve its capability to deliver public services and employment opportunities. Creating youth employment and enhancing the livelihood of ordinary Somalis need to be given priority, as they would have a positive impact on the hearts and minds of ordinary Somalis. I urge Member States and regional organizations to expedite the provision of contributions to the United Nations trust funds and bilateral support pledged at the Brussels conference, and to coordinate closely with the United Nations.

66. I strongly urge Member States to support the strengthening of AMISOM through bilateral aid and the Trust Fund for AMISOM established during the Brussels donor conference, and to urgently contribute troops to AMISOM so that it can reach its authorized troop strength of 8,000. I pay tribute to the Governments of Uganda and Burundi for their determination to demonstrate the African Union's solidarity with the people of Somalia and commend AMISOM forces and their outgoing Force Commander for the excellent work done under extremely difficult conditions.

67. I remain committed to pursuing the three-track approach which was outlined in my previous report (S/2009/210) and endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1872 (2009). In this regard, we are working towards the speedy implementation of Council resolutions 1863 (2009) and 1872 (2009) on the provision of United Nations logistics support to AMISOM. However, this support to AMISOM is dependent on the availability of the necessary funds. A short-term and temporary approach to funding requirements limits a field mission in undertaking longer-term strategic planning critical to its objectives, has implications for procurement arrangements and undermines efforts to attract experienced staff. I encourage Member States to cooperate closely in ensuring that UNSOA can establish operations based upon full-year funding.

68. I am encouraged by ongoing international efforts to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. I am grateful to all Member States and regional organizations that have ensured that WFP- and United Nations-contracted vessels are able to deliver much-needed humanitarian assistance to Somalia and the United Nations support package for AMISOM. I would also like to call upon other Member States, with the required capacity, to join in this effort. It is important that those countries engaged in the anti-piracy effort coordinate their activities in collaboration with the Government of Somalia and provide assistance to the building of the capacity of the Somali coast guard and the Somali judicial system.

The United Nations will continue to work with regional actors that are assisting in the prosecution of pirates and to help build the capacity of Somalia to take ownership of deterrents and prosecution of pirates.

69. The recent violence has worsened the humanitarian crisis in the country. This is a source of deep concern. I call once again upon Member States to lend their support to priority recovery programmes in the United Nations Transition Plan for Somalia. The continued fighting has increased the need to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance in the country. I pay tribute to the humanitarian workers who are operating under an increasingly hostile environment, especially in the south-central regions of the country. Their sacrifices to save Somali victims do not go unnoticed.

70. It is with deep concern that I note reports of the recruitment and the training of children less than 18 years of age in the hostilities in Somalia. The recruitment of such children is a violation of international human rights and humanitarian law, and constitutes, in some cases, a war crime. I call upon those responsible for these recruitments to discontinue this practice and allow any such children to return to their families immediately.

71. Somali law and international treaties ratified by Somalia guarantee all accused a fair trial and prohibit gender-based discrimination, corporal and cruel punishments, such as amputations and floggings, as well as summary executions. I remind all local, regional and national authorities, as well as the de facto authorities, to immediately refrain from such practices.

72. The civilian population is bearing the brunt of the conflict in Somalia. It is imperative that all measures be taken to protect the civilians, in particular, the most vulnerable. I remind those who are perpetrating such violations to respect the provisions of international humanitarian law, especially the protection of civilians, and warn them that certain violations of international humanitarian law amount to war crimes.

73. Finally, I would like to express my deep appreciation to my Special Representative, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, for his continued dedication and commitment to the advancement of peace and national reconciliation among the people of Somalia. I also pay tribute to the United Nations country team and all other organizations and their staff members who are working tirelessly under difficult conditions in the country. I call upon the Somalis and Member States to continue extending to my Special Representative their unwavering support and cooperation.